

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

FY2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant Name: City Year, Inc.	Application ID: 12AC133393
Program Name: City Year Cleveland	

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- Community needs to be addressed are compelling and well-documented as evidenced by a myriad of statistical data reported by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) that highlights the achievement gaps of students in the target community compared to district and state data with respect to academic achievement, attendance, and graduation rates.
- The potential impact of the proposed activities does not seem realistic in addressing the community need. The applicant indicates that Member activities will only result in 600 of 2000 (30%) participants demonstrating improvement in academics, attendance, and/or behavior by the end of the project period.
- The applicant effectively describes its use of several evidence-based approaches, i.e. Whole School Whole Child, Response to Intervention, Early Warning Indicators, designed to effectively target the identified need. These evidence-based approaches will allow the Members to efficiently identify and monitor participant progress.
- The supervision plan for Members is effective as it provides Members with many layers of support: Program Managers, Program Director, Impact Director, and Teachers.
- The applicant does not provide the number of full-time, half-time and minimum-time slots nor their alignment with the program goals and objectives.
- The applicant can be expected to achieve most of the goals and objectives presented in this application.
- The applicant adapts the US Army's model of "Be, Know, Do" to build Civic Identity, Civic Capacity, and Civic Action within each Member. They describe a well-developed training program that has opportunities for team building, reflection, and professional training, Basic and Advanced Training Academies, and a support network for Members.
- The requested 70 full-time AmeriCorps members will serve in teams at five high schools and two elementary schools within CMSD. The AmeriCorps members are a highly effective solution because they have consistent daily interactions with the at-risk students and school staff and are able to build relationships. Their presence also allows teachers to spend more time on teaching, rather than on discipline.

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- The applicant does not discuss the link between behavioral challenges and attendance and academic performance, nor does the applicant present evidence discussing/ identifying the behavioral challenges.
- The applicant indicates that only 30% of the student population receiving services will improve.
- While the applicant discusses AmeriCorps members providing additional human capital for the schools, the AmeriCorps members are not required to have a college degree in education or have prior training in tutoring. The fact that all training will occur throughout the AmeriCorps member's service year implies that they will be better suited to deliver the interventions after their service is complete.
- The applicant uses the Ohio Department of Education Local Report Cards for school performance as data sources to establish the need in the communities.
- The interventions are established and demonstrated through evidence based research
- The AmeriCorps members are provided with support and guidance to deliver the interventions.
- The Members participate in the Ohio Commission sponsored Justice throughout the state of Ohio which unites Member leaders from AmeriCorps programs.
- The applicant justified the need in their community with local academic indicators and provided a realistic description of their proposed activities based on previous experience. The activities described are linked to desired outcomes and use research-based interventions to achieve goals.